

AMBLECOTE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORTS
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND
Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

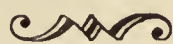
December 31st, 1938



STOURBRIDGE
J. Thos. Ford, Limited, Printers and Manufacturing Stationers

1939

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Amblecote Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending December 31st, 1938.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1938.

The Vital Statistics compare favourably with previous years. The Crude Death Rate is 13.8 per 1000 of the population as compared with 14.3 for 1937 and the Live Birth Rate 13.2 per 1000 of the population as compared with 11.6 for 1937. Although the Death Rate is lower and the Birth Rate higher than for 1937 the estimated Resident Population at the middle of 1938 shows a reduction of 53—from 2933 to 2880. The Infantile Mortality, i.e. Mortality in children under one year per 1000 registered live births is 79, as against 29 in 1937. The higher figure is due to the accidental death of a child who fell from a table and was fatally injured. There was one Still-birth.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases have been normal. There does not appear to have been any unusual sickness.

Housing and Overcrowding (Housing Act, 1936) are dealt with in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

There have been no changes in the Industrial Circumstances of your District. The principal industries are : Flint Glass Making and Decorating, Fire Clay Brick and Retort Making, Iron and Steel Works, Iron Foundries, Holloware Works and Leather Works. There does not appear to have been any Occupational Disease attributable to them. Employment has been reasonably good although the level of 1936 has not been maintained.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District in Acres	-	-	-	665
Number of Persons per Acre	-	-	-	4.33
Population (Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population, middle of 1938)	-	-	-	2880
Number of inhabited house (1938)	-	-	-	856
Average number of persons per house	-	-	-	3.36
Rateable Value	-	-	-	£19,034
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	-	-	-	£75

VITAL STATISTICS.

Rate per 1000 of the Estimated Resident Population.

			Birth Rate per 1000 of the Estimated Resident Population.		
			M.	F.	
Live	Legitimate	Total 38 :	20	18	-
Births	Illegitimate	Nil.	Nil.		13.2

Still-Births, Legitimate, Total 1, M. 1 ; Rate per 1000

Total (live and still-births) - - - 25

Birth Rate, England & Wales, 1938 - - - 15.1

Deaths - 40—Males, 25 ; Females, 15. ;

Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated
resident population - - - 13.8

Adjusted Death Rate per 1000 - - - 13.3

Death Rate, England & Wales, 1938 - - - 11.6

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other Puerperal causes Nil.

Death Rate 126 Large Towns, England & Wales 11.7 per 1000

Death Rate 148 Smaller Towns, England & Wales 11 „ „

Deaths of Infants under one year of age - 3

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :

All Infants per 1000 live births - - 79

Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births 79

Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

England & Wales - - 53 per 1000

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - - - 2

Death Rate from Cancer per 1000 of the population 0.7

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-	-	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-	-	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		-	Nil.

Ages at which deaths occurred (40).

Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and over
3	1	2	1	2	10	21

11 of these deaths occurred at ages from 70 to 80 years,
and 7 over 80 years.

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS.

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	5 years Aver.
Birth Rate	11.7	15.2	12	11.6	13.2	12.74
Death Rate	7.5	14.4	17.3	14.3	13.3	13.36
Infantile Mortality	Nil	65	55	29	79	45.6
Zymotic Mortality	0.1	0.3	Nil	Nil	0.34	0.15
Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0.6	0.3	1.2	0.34	0.7	0.63
Other Tuberculosis Diseases				0.68	0.34	
Cancer	0.9	2.3	3.0	1.7	2	1.99
Bronchitis				0.34	Nil	
Pneumonia				0.34	1.38	
Other Respiratory Diseases				0.68	0.34	

CAUSES OF DEATH (Registrar General's Return).

DISEASES.	1937	1938	
		M.	F.
Small Pox - - -	-	-	-
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers -	-	-	-
Measles - - -	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever - - -	-	-	-
Whooping Cough - - -	-	-	-
Diphtheria - - -	-	-	-
Influenza - - -	4	-	1
Encephalitis Lethargica - - -	1	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever - - -	-	1	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System -	1	1	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases - - -	2	1	-
Syphilis - - -	-	-	-
General Paralysis of the Insane Tabes Dorsalis - - -	-	-	-
Cancer, Malignant Disease - - -	5	-	2
Diabetes - - -	1	-	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc. - - -	4	2	-
Heart Disease - - -	7	3	4
Aneurysm - - -	-	-	-
Other Circulatory Diseases - - -	2	1	-
Bronchitis - - -	1	-	-
Pneumonia (all forms) - - -	1	4	-
Other Respiratory Diseases - - -	2	1	-
Peptic Ulcer - - -	1	1	-
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) - - -	-	-	-
Appendicitis - - -	-	-	-
Cirrhosis of Liver - - -	-	-	1
Other Diseases of Liver - - -	1	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases - - -	-	-	1
Nephritis - - -	3	-	-
Puerperal Sepsis - - -	-	-	-
Other Puerperal Causes - - -	-	-	-
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, etc. - - -	-	-	1
Senility - - -	2	2	1
Suicide - - -	2	1	-
Other Deaths from Violence - - -	-	-	1
Other defined Diseases - - -	2	7	-
Causes ill-defined or unknown - - -	-	-	-
TOTALS - - -	42	25	15
		40	

Birth-Rate, Death-Rate, Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1938.

	RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.									RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All Causes.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet fever.	Whooping cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Mortality under 1 year.
England and Wales ...	15.1	0.6	11.6	Nil	Nil	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.11	—	5.5	53
126 Large Towns in England ...	15.0	0.65	11.7	Nil	Nil	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.10	—	7.8	57
148 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25000 to 50000 ...	15.4	0.60	11.0	Nil	Nil	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.11	—	3.6	51
Amblecote ...	13.2	0.3	13.8	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.3	0.7	Nil	79

Maternal Mortality, Nil.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

One Medical Officer (part time).

One Sanitary Inspector (Cert. R.S.I.)—Whole time with Joint Appointment as Surveyor and Rating Officer.

One Health Visitor (part time)—under the Staffordshire County Council.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Public Health Act, Amendment Act, 1890 (ii, iii, iv.).

Public Health Act, Amendment Act, 1907.

Public Health Act, 1925.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

I. (i) Public Health Officers : Details already given.

(ii) (a) Laboratory Facilities :

All Clinical Material sent to the County Bacteriologist.

Bacteriological Examinations :

	Number of Specimens sent for Report	-	16
	Total.	Positive.	Negative.
Diphtheria (Swabs)	15	1	14
Faeces	1	Nil.	1

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) Infectious cases (b) Non-infectious cases and accidents	}	None provided by the Council.
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Ambulance for Infectious cases is supplied from the Brierley Hill Isolation Hospital at Kingswinford. For other cases there is no difficulty in getting an Ambulance from adjoining Districts.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

(1) General :—Provided by the Brierley Hill Nursing Association and subsidised by the County Council.

(2) Infectious Diseases :—Nurse would be provided if necessary.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES & CLINICS.

- (1) One School Clinic conducted by County Medical Inspector.
- (2) One Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic provided by the County Council. A weekly clinic is held at the Methodist Schools, High Street.
- (3) One Venereal Disease Clinic held at the Corbett Hospital two evenings each week.

(e) **HOSPITALS.**

- (1) PUBLIC. For Isolation of Infectious Diseases, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, etc.—at Kingswinford—agreement with Brierley Hill Urban District Council.
- (2) FOR SMALLPOX. South Staffordshire Joint Smallpox Hospital at Moxley.

VOLUNTARY.

- (1) THE CORBETT HOSPITAL, situate in Amblecote, serves large adjoining areas: 95 beds. Men, 34; Women, 30; Children, 24; Isolation, 1; Private, 6.

Treatment.—Medical, Surgical, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat, Dental, Venereal, Massage, X-ray, Orthopædic and Mental.

- (2) THE GUEST HOSPITAL, DUDLEY (4 miles). 106 beds. Men, 50; Women, 30; Children, 26.

Treatment.—Medical, Surgical, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat, Dental, Orthopædic, X-ray, Massage and Venereal.

STOURBRIDGE DISPENSARY. Out-Patients are treated on Subscribers Tickets.

There are also available the hospitals at Birmingham and Wolverhampton. Being within reasonable distance a good many special cases go to one or the other.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

None within the area. There are however three excellent homes within reasonable distance :—at Stourbridge, Mary Stevens Home, 2 miles ; Sandfield House, Wordsley, 2 miles ; and Rosemary Ednam Home, Dudley, 5 miles. Urgent cases requiring operation are admitted to the Corbett Hospital.

TUBERCULOSIS. Institution treatment is provided by the Stafford and Wolverhampton Tuberculosis Committee.

3. (i) MIDWIFERY & MATERNITY SERVICES.

There is one resident Midwife practising in the District—subsidised by the County Council.

(ii) UNMARRIED MOTHERS, HOMELESS AND ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

There is no specified Institutional provision.

(iii) HEALTH VISITORS & ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT.

The Staff and provision for Treatment have been already referred to.

4. REGISTRATION OF MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

No applications for Registration have been received.

Maternal Mortality—Nil.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER. The Stourbridge and District Water Board gives a continuous supply of good quality and quantity.

- (ii) DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE. As the area has had deep drainage and water carriage system prior to the period under review there has been no necessity for important extension. The whole of the sewage is delivered on to the natural land outside the area, under the direction and control of a Joint Drainage Board.

2. **RIVERS & STREAMS.** The River Stour runs through part of the District. Cases of Pollution are dealt with by the County Councils of Staffordshire and Worcestershire.
3. (i) Closet Accommodation.
 (ii) Public Cleansing.
 (iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.
 (iv) Smoke Abatement.
 (v) Eradication of Bed Bugs.
The particulars will be found in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.
- (vi) Swimming Baths and Pools :—Nil—neither Public nor Private.
4. **SCHOOLS.** Two Junior Schools—recently transferred to the County Council. Both have Water Closets and Town Water.
5. **DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD.** The arrangements are adequate.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1938.

- (1) *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year :—*
- | | | |
|-----|---|------|
| (1) | (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 85 |
| | (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 152 |
| (2) | (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | 33 |
| | (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 80 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | Nil. |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 19 |

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	-	-	7
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

(A)—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 & 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	-	2
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :—

(a) By Owners	-	-	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners			Nil.

(B).—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	-	-	40
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :—

(a) By Owners	-	-	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners			Nil.

(C).—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made (1937)	-	13
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	-	13
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(D).—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	-	-	Nil.
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- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit - - - Nil.

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—*

- (a) (1) Number of Dwellings overcrowded at end of year (1937) - - - 9
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein - 9
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein - 69
- (b) Number of New Cases of Overcrowding reported during the year - - - Nil.
- (c) (1) Number of Cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year - - - 9
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 69
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding - - Nil.

HOUSING CONDITIONS AND OVERCROWDING

(See Report of Sanitary Inspector).

SECTION E.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply ;

(b) Meat and other foods

(See Report of Sanitary Inspector).

(c), (d) Adulteration, etc. Food & Drugs Acts, etc.—are administered by the County Council.

(e) Nutrition : No action has been taken.

(f) Shell Fish : Little, if any, sold in the District.

SECTION F.
PREVALENCE & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
(2) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1938.

DISEASE.	Total No. of Cases.	AGES.										Cases sent to Hos- pital.	Deaths	
		under 1 year	1 to 2 yrs.	2 to 3 yrs.	3 to 4 yrs.	4 to 5 yrs.	5 to 10 yrs.	10 to 15 yrs.	15 to 20 yrs.	20 to 35 yrs.	35 to 45 yrs.			45 to 65 yrs.
Smallpox ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever ...	3	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Diphtheria ...	3	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Enteric Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Pneumonia ...	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	4
Erysipelas ...	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
Totals ...	14	-	1	-	-	4	1	-	-	4	3	1	7	4

The above include Patients from outside Districts notified while patients in the Corbett Hospital, viz. :—Scarlet Fever, 2 ;
Diphtheria, 1 ; Erysipelas, 1.

5. (a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS. No action has been necessary under Section 66, Public Health Act, 1925 or under Section 176, Public Health Act, 1936.

(b) **TUBERCULOSIS, 1938.**

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M	F.
0 under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
5 to 10 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 to 15 „	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 20 „	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 to 25 „	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35 „	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 45 „	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 55 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 65 „	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	5	-	1	-	1	1	1	-

4 cases were Transfers from other areas, viz. : 3 Respiratory Males and 1 Non-Respiratory—Male.

Notification is efficient.

No new cases were discovered which had not been notified.

No action necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in respect of persons employed in the Milk Trade, nor under Section 62, Public Health Act, 1925, nor under Section 172, Public Health Act, 1936.

Including Tuberculosis, 22 cases have been notified as compared with 10 for the year 1937—as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	-	3	—	Removed to Hospital	3
Diphtheria	-	3	—	Removed to Hospital	3
Erysipelas	-	3			
Tuberculosis	-	7			
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	1	—	Removed to Hospital	1
Pneumonia	-	1			
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	4				
Total	-	22		Total	7

10 Notifications of persons residing outside Amblecote were received from the Corbett Hospital.

No cases of Encephalitis Lethargica were notified nor any case of Malaria or Dysentery reported. One case only of Pneumonia was notified.

The Education Authorities are notified of cases of Infectious Diseases occurring at the Schools.

No intimation has been given of Anthrax, Epidemic Jaundice, Rheumatic Fever, Undulant Fever or Psittacosis.

Bacteriological and Pathological specimens are sent to the County Laboratory at Stafford.

Arrangements have been made with the County Education Authorities for immunisation of Scholars against Diphtheria. The School Doctor treats the children and the Council provide the Prophylactic.

Sufficient Isolation Hospital accommodation is available and is used to the best advantage. Measles and Whooping Cough are isolated at home. The Dick Test has been applied in Scarlet Fever cases.

Rooms occupied by patients suffering from Infectious Disease, etc., isolated at home, are disinfected after convalescence.

In the event of a serious epidemic of Measles it may be necessary to engage a qualified Nurse. Cases of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia are treated at the Wolverhampton Royal Women's Hospital by arrangement with the County Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH (Smallpox Prevention). No application for primary or re-vaccination applied for.

VERMINOUS PERSONS. No special facilities provided. No case has been reported.

RATS AND MOSQUITOES. The County Council employ a Rat Catcher and his services can be obtained on payment of a fee. Occupiers of rat-infested premises are advised to engage him.

No complaint of Mosquitoes. There is little stagnant water in which they may breed.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories, including Factory Laundries	12	2	—
Workshops, including Workshop Laundries	10	—	—
Workplaces, other than Outworkers premises			
Total	22	2	—

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts*</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	-	-	-	-
Want of Ventilation	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Want of drainage of floors	-	-	-	-
Other nuisances	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Accommodation :				
Insufficient	-	-	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	5	5	-	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	-	-	-	-
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule of the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921)	-	-	-	-
Total	5	5	-	-

*Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

I think it can be reasonably claimed that the Health of the District during 1938 has been good.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. SIMPKISS,

May 31st, 1939.

Medical Officer of Health.



Amblecote Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1938.

MR. CHAIRMAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my report for the Year 1938 as follows :—

Inspections and Notices.

Inspections and observations made	-	-	1107
Sanitary defects dealt with	-	-	268

Houses unfit for human habitation, 20; insanitary houses capable of repair, 28; foul conditions, 48; structural defects, 48, overcrowding, 9; ashpits and privies and receptacles for domestic ashes and refuse, 60; water closets, 18; house drainage, 27; smoke nuisances, 4; dairies, cowsheds and milkshops, 1; slaughter houses, 1; caravans, 4.

Informal Notices served	-	-	87
Informal Notices complied with	-	-	66
Statutory Notices served	-	-	21
Statutory Notices complied with	-	-	21

Sanitary Accommodation.

Houses provided with Water Closets	-	840	} 858
Houses provided with Pan Closets	-	5	
Houses provided with Privies	-	13	

Houses provided with separate Water Closets	699	}	858
Houses provided with Water Closets in common	141		
Houses provided with separate Privies	9		
Houses provided with Privies in Common	4		
Houses provided with Pan Closets	-		

Six houses which had Water Closets in common have been provided with a separate convenience for each house.

Scavenging and Removal of Household Refuse.

Houses provided with separate Ashpits	-	3	}	858
Houses provided with Ashpits in common	-	10		
Houses provided with Sanitary Dust Bins	-	827		
Houses provided with Privies and Pans	-	18		

Six Ashpits have been demolished and replaced by Sanitary Dust Bins. Privies remain only where it is not practicable to provide sewer accommodation.

Removal of Household Refuse has been carried out under yearly contract. Dust Bins are cleared systematically every week. The work has been well performed. Disposal is by "Tipping." The tip is in an isolated part of the district. It is kept in good condition and is coated with soil at regular intervals. 829 Motor Lorry Loads of refuse were collected and disposed of. The weight was 1,050 tons, 6 cwts.

Smoke Abatement.

Three nuisances from excessive emissions of Smoke have been dealt with. In each case inefficient stoking was the cause. If reasonable care was exercised regularly when "Firing" the volumes of Smoke seen belching from chimney stacks would become a rarity.

Housing.

Number of Dwelling Houses of all classes	-	858
Number of Working-class Dwelling Houses	-	754
Number of Working-class houses erected :—		
By Private Enterprise	-	Nil.
By Local Authority	-	24
Number of Houses (of all classes) in course of erection	-	Nil.

Housing Conditions and Overcrowding.

The houses in your District may be classified as follows :—

Houses with one Bedroom	-	-	1	} 858
Houses with two Bedrooms	-	-	327	
Houses with three Bedrooms	-	-	443	
Houses with more than three Bedrooms			87	

The following 13 Houses have been demolished under Sec. II, Housing Act, 1936, viz :—No. 25, Vicarage Road. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, White Court. Nos. 1, 2, 3, Back of 51, High Street. Nos. 1, 2, Back of 61, High Street. Nos. 1, 2, 3, Wollaston Mills Cottages.

Nos. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, Stamford Road and Nos. 146, 147, High Street, have been vacated. They will not be used again for Human Habitation until you cancel the undertakings given by the respective owners.

Houses unfit for Human Habitation in certain respects but capable at a Reasonable Cost of being rendered fit :—Nos. 28, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, King William Street have been re-conditioned. Separate Wash-houses and Water Closets have been provided and the interiors thoroughly renovated.

Statutory Notices under Sec. 9, Housing Act, 1936 in respect of Nos. 27, 28, Box Hill were complied with.

Works to make them "Fit" are in hand at the following houses, viz :—No. 36 ; Nos. 51, 52, 53, 54, 55 ; Nos. 60, 61, 62 ; No. 80 ; Nos. 105, 106, Brettell Lane and Nos. 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, King William Street.

Informal Notices requiring the Owners to carry out works to make them fit have been given in respect of Nos. 30 and 132, King William Street.

At the beginning of the year 9 Houses, affecting 9 families and 69 persons, were overcrowded. They have since been properly re-housed. I stated in 1937 that "Overcrowding should disappear in 1938" and I am pleased to say that the statement has proved correct.

During the year the Council built 24 Houses. They have been utilised for re-housing families displaced from "Unfit" and Overcrowded Houses.

As the average number of persons of all ages per House is 3.36 only, it is apparent that Overcrowding can only arise in isolated cases.

The occupiers of 3 Temporary Dwellings — Combinations of Vans and Tents, have removed from the district. They were informed that the conditions under which they were living would not be permitted.

Eradication of Bed Bugs, Etc.

One house only has been found to be infested. Fumigation and Spraying appear to have been successful in getting rid of the pests.

A few of the oldest houses in the District may be infested. They will be dealt with as discovered. The greater proportion of the tenants are clean and would not tolerate the presence of bugs.

Complaints were made that Crickets had appeared in 3 New Houses. Hearths and Surrounds of the kitchen grates were sprayed with a Speciality Preparation. Since its application there has been no further trouble.

Water Supply.

All premises receive a continuous and pure supply of water for drinking and domestic purposes from the Stourbridge and District Water Board. The principal Bore Holes (at Wollaston Road and Mill Meadow) are situated in your District. The Engineer and Manager to the Board has samples of the Water taken at frequent intervals and supplies Copies of the Analyses. In May last a Sanitary Survey was made of the land immediately surrounding the Bore Hole at Mill Meadow. The Medical Officers for the Counties of Staffordshire and Worcestershire were present along with the Medical Officer for your District. Nothing was discovered that was likely to adversely affect the purity of the Water.

Milk, Dairies and Cowsheds.

The following suppliers are registered :—Producer Retailers, 2 ; (one has removed to another district during the year) ; Retail Purveyors, 2 ; Retailers of Bottled Milk only, 9 ; Retail Purveyors not resident in Amblecote, 17.

Under the Special Designations Order, Retailers' Licences have been issued as follows :—To sell Tuberculin Tested Milk, 1 ; and to sell Accredited Milk, 2. The Principal Licences in each case have been issued by other Authorities. A small portion only of the Milk consumed is produced in your District. Surrounding areas supply the bulk. Samples for all purposes are taken by the County Council.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations.

There is one "Registered" Slaughter-house only. It is well lighted and ventilated, has a good floor, an ample supply of water and proper drainage. The fasting pens are well removed from the place of slaughter. Offals, waste, manure, etc. are removed daily, immediately after slaughtering is finished.

Notices of slaughter were given in respect of the following animals, viz :—Beasts, 118; Calves, 6; Sheep and Lambs, 643; Swine, 131. Carcases inspected were:—Beasts, 111; Calves, 6; Sheep and Lambs, 611; Swine, 124.

Percentage inspected : 94.8.

There were 23 surrenders of unsound meat, comprising 1 Pig, 94 lbs. affected with Swine Erysipelas, 10 Swine Offals, 1 Ox Head-Tuberculosis, 16 Ox Livers and 18 Sheep Livers.

Prime quality animals only are purchased for Slaughter and the meat prepared for sale is as good as can be obtained.

One Notice only—in respect of one pig—was given to slaughter for sale on private premises.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The Act is enforceable in respect of Sheep. A “Captive Bolt” pistol is used and operates efficiently.

Precautions against Infectious Disease.

Houses (or rooms) disinfected	-	-	4
Patients removed to Isolation Hospital :—			
Diphtheria	-	-	2
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1
			3

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HAROLD PIPER,

May 31st, 1939.

Sanitary Inspector.

